

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of coloring an optical fiber, said method comprising:
applying a base color coating of a first curable material to an optical fiber core section,
said base color coating having a base color;
applying at least one stripe of a second curable material to said base color coating before
said base color coating is fully cured, said stripe having a stripe color different from said base
color, and wherein said stripe is formed in said base color coating such that a diameter of said
optical fiber remains substantially uniform; and
curing said base color coating and said stripe.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein applying said base color coating includes
coating said optical fiber core section in a die and passing said coated optical fiber core section
through an exit portion of said die having a longitudinal channel for controlling said diameter of
said colored optical fiber.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein applying said stripe includes injecting said
second curable material through an aperture in a side wall of said die.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising partially curing said base color
coating before applying said stripe.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein applying said stripe includes injecting said
second curable material against said base color coating using a nozzle.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising partially curing said base color
coating before applying said stripe using said nozzle.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising passing said optical fiber core
section having said base color coating and said stripe through another die to maintain a
substantially uniform diameter.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein curing said base color coating and said stripe includes passing said base color coating and said stripe through a full cure station.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein applying said at least one stripe includes applying a plurality of stripes.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said first curable material and said second curable material are UV-curable materials.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said first curable material and said second curable material are different types of material.

ai 12. (Original) A method of coloring an optical fiber, said method comprising:
applying a base color coating of a first curable material to an optical fiber core section to form a coated optical fiber core section, said base color coating having a base color;
applying at least one stripe of a second curable material to said coated optical fiber core section, said stripe having a stripe color different from said base color;
controlling a thickness of said base color coating and said stripe such that a diameter of said colored optical fiber remains substantially uniform; and
curing said base color coating and said stripe.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the steps of applying and controlling the thickness of said base color coating and said stripe include:
coating said optical fiber core section;
passing said coated optical fiber core section through a die having a longitudinal channel for controlling said diameter of said colored optical fiber; and
injecting said second curable material through an aperture in a side wall of said die.


14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the step of curing said base color coating and said stripe includes curing said base color coating and said stripe simultaneously in a cure station.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the step of curing said base color coating and said stripe includes:

partially curing said base color coating before applying said stripe; and
fully curing said base color coating and said stripe after applying said stripe.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the steps of applying and controlling the thickness of said base color coating include:

coating said optical fiber core section; and
passing said coated optical fiber core section through a first die.

 17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the step of applying said stripe includes injecting said second curable material against said base color coating using a nozzle.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of controlling the thickness of said base color coating and said stripe includes passing said colored optical fiber through a second die before the step of fully curing said base color coating and said stripe.

19. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the steps of applying and controlling the thickness of said base color coating and said stripe include:

applying said base color coating using a first die;
passing said coated optical fiber core section through said first die to provide a gap in said base color coating;
applying said stripe to said gap in said base color coating using a second die; and
passing said coated optical fiber core section through said second die to maintain said substantially uniform diameter.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the step of curing said base color coating and said stripe includes first curing said base color coating after passing said coated optical fiber core section through said first die and then curing said stripe after passing said coated optical fiber core section through said second die.

Claims 21-28 (Canceled)

29. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving said optical fiber core section coated with said base color coating in a main portion of a coloring die;

AI passing said optical fiber core section coated with said base color coating through an exit portion of said coloring die extending from said main portion, said exit portion defining a substantially straight longitudinal passageway having a substantially uniform diameter, for maintaining said optical fiber at a substantially uniform diameter; and

wherein applying said at least one stripe includes injecting said stripe through a side aperture in said exit portion using at least one striping tube coupled to said exit portion, whereby said stripe is applied to said base color coating and maintained at said substantially uniform diameter.

30. (New) The method of claim 29 further comprising:

injecting a plurality of stripes through a plurality of side apertures in said exit portion using a plurality striping tubes coupled to said exit portion.